(d) and (e) Research for alternative fuels is a continuous process. LPG can also be used as an alternative to CNG as automotive fuel. Research is also underway for using Hydrogen as auto-fuel.

Fire in ONGC pipeline

1499. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an undersea pipeline of ONGC carrying crude oil from Mumbai High North oil field Uran (Mumbai) developed a leak in August, 2003 causing oil spill;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) by when the leak was detected and what is the estimated loss; and

(d) what impact it had on the environment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) Leakage of crude oil was observed from 30 inch oil trunk pipeline from Mumbai High to Uran at 1740 hrs on 10th August, 2003. The leakage was suspected to be from a small rupture in this cement coated trunk pipeline.

As per the findings of a high level Committee of ONGC, internal corrosion of the pipeline has been found to be the principal cause of the leakage.

The quantity of crude oil spilled was approximately 200 Metric Tons (MT). The estimated effect on crude oil production due to non-availability of the trunk pipeline and subsequent restriction in production rate till the line was repaired, is around 0.171 Million Metric Ton (MMT).

The oil spill was contained immediately within a few hours. The application of chemical dispersant broke down oil slick into patches making their effect a localized one. There was insignificant damage to the environment, prima facie.